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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Construction of New Vitkovice Ironworks  
at Moravska Ostrava-Kuncice

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1. The construction of the new Kliment Gottwald Vitkovice (Witkowitz-P50/058) Ironworks at Moravska Ostrava (P50/059)-Kuncice (Gross Kunzendorf - P50/058) started in autumn 1959. The factory is also called "Czech Donbas" after the Russian industrial center on the Don river.
  2. Plans call for 40 to 50 new buildings and by 1 August 1950 about 25 buildings were under construction. Three blast furnaces of steel construction are to be built and one furnace, 67 m. high, is already completed. At each blast furnace three cower stoves of steel construction will be built. Not far from the blast furnaces a large machine shop and one smokestack are under construction. Reinforced concrete bunkers for ore and coke, 20 m. by 250 m. in area and 18 to 26 m. high with an underground section six m. deep, are also being constructed near the blast furnaces. A tunnel, 200 m. long, ten m. wide, five m. high with a 30 cm. thick reinforced concrete ceiling, leads from the ore bunkers to an ore separating plant. In the tunnel are two corridors, one seven m. wide, the other three m. wide. A large power plant, 30 m. by 60 m. in area and 30 m. high, will be finished soon. It will probably be two years before the new plant is ready for operation.
  3. The Stavoprojekt National Enterprise at Moravska Ostrava worked out the plans for construction. The complete plans are closely guarded and the planning or development group, whose headquarters are in the Vitkovice Ironworks building in Moravska Ostrava, directs construction. The project as a whole is divided into several building administrations; every administration is assigned a cover number for security reasons. Each administration, directed by an engineer, supervises construction of four to ten buildings. The names of the following persons associated with construction management are known:

General Manager:	Kempny, Czech national.
Special Activities (sic) Manager:	Navratil, Czech national.
Security Officer:	Najmik, Czech national.
Building Administration 420: (blast furnaces)	Vegh, Jewish engineer.
Building Administration 800: (power plant)	Melichar, engineer.
Planning or Development Group Chief:	Kveton, architect.
Position unknown:	Voracek, engineer.

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4. In March 1950 only about 300 people were working on the construction, but by the summer of 1950 the number employed jumped to 6,000 or more. Workers, recruited from all over Czechoslovakia, keep construction going without pause in two or three shifts a day, Sundays and holidays included.
5. Under a security officer is the Workers' Militia, which consists of plain-clothes men who wear a red ribbon on the left sleeve and are armed with rifles. The Militia guards all the main entrances and temporary gates into the plant. In addition, the security officer has at his disposal civilian security organizations to prevent sabotage activities and to guard temporary buildings where various construction plans are kept. A new permanent SNB station of 30 men, including a commander and deputy, has been established in the plant. The construction area is enclosed by barbed wire fence and employees must show a special pass to enter the area. Strict security is maintained on the construction project; employees do not know the ultimate purpose of buildings upon which they work.
6. Two Russian delegations in civilian clothes visited the construction site in May and June 1950. Minister of Technical Affairs, Ing. Emanuel Slechta and a special commission visited the plant in April 1950. Minister of Planning Jaromir Dolansky inspected the plant in June 1950 while at the end of July 1950 Minister Augustin Kliment made an inspection tour.

Attachment: Sketch of Vitkovice Ironworks.

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